

U.S.S.N. 09/870,181

REMARKS – General

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Narisue et al., US Pat. No. 4,726,794, herein after Narisue. Specifically, the Office Action (OA) submits that Narisue teaches a cover for a battery with mechanical features for coupling to a charging plug, and an orifice such that power terminals may be coupled to the battery.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a “detachable, passive” cover, thereby indicating that the cover does not include energy supplying components, and is further removable from the battery. Support for this amendment is found in FIG. 1 as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Narisu teaches a charging socket 1, permanently coupled to a power source 9 as shown in FIG. 4. The socket includes charging contacts 3 and 3', which are permanently disposed within the socket 1. The socket is active, in that it includes, when assembled as shown in Narisue FIG. 5, charging components for supplying energy to the battery.

Applicants respectfully submit that Narisue fails to teach a passive cover as shown in Applicants FIG. 1, and as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in light of the amendment.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Brunette et al., US Pat. No. 5,766,794, herein after Brunette. Specifically, the OA submits that Brunette teaches a cover for a battery comprising mechanical features for mating to a charge plug, including an orifice, base, latch and belt.

As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a “detachable, passive” cover, thereby indicating that the cover does not include energy supplying components, and is further removable from the battery.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' invention, as recited in the amended claims, is distinct from Brunette in a number of ways: First, the cover 102 of Brunette FIG. 6 is permanently mounted over the cells 636. It is not detachable as with Applicants' invention.

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Next, Applicants respectfully submit that the cover of Brunette fails to teach a main orifice. In FIG. 6, Brunette teaches a set of spring mounted contacts 422 permanently attached to the otherwise sealed cover. There is thus no orifice in the sealed battery pack of Brunette.

Third, the cover of Brunette is designed for coupling to a cellular telephone as shown in Brunette FIG. 7. The cellular telephone is not a charging plug. Nor can a charging plug be coupled to the cover of Brunette. The only way to charge the batteries 636 within the cover 102 is by coupling the cover to a phone and then coupling a phone to a charging plug by way of receptacle 304 (shown in Brunette FIG. 3).

Finally, Brunette is an active device, having battery cells 636 permanently coupled to the cover, the cells capable of delivering power. It is not passive as is Applicants' invention.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in light of the amendments and these remarks.

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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Applicants believe this application is now in condition for allowance, for which they respectfully submit.

Respectfully submitted,



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enclosure: Proposed Drawing Corrections